

House of Detention to shut this summer



Holy procession

Louis Ponsiglione (foreground) of the St. Rosalia Society, joined other Catholic Italian-Americans in a Good Friday procession that began at Sacred Hearts & St. Stephen Church, at Summit and Hicks streets in Carroll Gardens. The parish is considered Brooklyn's oldest Italian Catholic community.

Inmates going to Rikers; city will continue to control the site

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

You could call it a jailbreak, only instead of the inmates fleeing it will be personnel.

The Brooklyn House of Detention will be closed this summer as part of the city's cost-cutting initiatives. The empty facility will remain part of the city Department of Correction's inventory, the agency said this week, but neighbors are already欢呼ing its closure. Atlantic Avenue's newest mixed-use retail and residential addition to Downtown Brooklyn.

"We don't want the bottom [of the building] to be unfriendly and the prison [to be] Sandy Balbooz president of the Atlantic Avenue Betterment Association. Balbooz added that the neighborhood had optimistically envisioned condominiums, with ground-floor retail space for the jail after the New York Sun reported the forthcoming closure this week.

million over the next seven to 10 years into a massive plan to develop Downtown Brooklyn's commercial and residential potential, the land would seem like an attractive parcel.

The city is going to spend \$100 million and a whole lot of energy on Downtown Brooklyn, that ought to inform that site," Yassky said.

Thomas Antenen, a spokesman for the Correction Department, said the city will seek to cut \$5.3 million from the agency in the next fiscal year, which starts July 1, and the savings would be found by closing the Brooklyn House of Detention around the same time.

Antenen said there are no layoffs of the 315 most recently hired uniformed correctional officers citywide, Antenen said. Most of the House of Detention's 163 guards will be reassigned to other facilities. The jail's approximate population of 600 inmates would be sent to Rikers Island.

Rikers Island is currently using

See JAIL on page 2



The Brooklyn House of Detention, on Atlantic Avenue between Boerum Place and Smith Street, is set to close this summer.

Free Sunday parking returns to Bklyn H'ts

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

Free Sunday parking will soon be restored to select streets in Downtown Brooklyn and Brooklyn Heights.

"Sometimes democracy does work, sometimes government does work," said Downtown Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce President David Yassky. "Mistakes get corrected."

In an April 11 letter to Yassky, who requested a review of the streets in his district, Lori Ardito, acting borough commissioner of the city Department of Transporta-

tion, wrote that a re-evaluation had determined that six streets should be converted back to six-day metered parking on April 15.

Last November, the Transportation Department announced that it would activate 7,282 parking meters in Brooklyn on Sundays as part of a budget modification to boost revenues for the city that also included a 5-cent increase in the fare.

In this fiscal year, the meters are estimated to collect an extra \$1 million while in the next fiscal year, beginning July 1, it is anticipated the Sunday meters will raise an additional \$3.5 million.

See PARKING on page 2

Signage replacements began in December and the entire project went into effect on Jan. 1. Yassky responded to the adjustment with a Jan. 9 letter to city Transportation Commissioner Iris Weinshall, who is married to Yassky's former boss, Sen. Charles Schumer, requesting that Sunday parking be lifted from certain streets.

Yassky wrote, "Street parking is a premium in neighborhoods such as Park Slope and Brooklyn Heights. Finding a legal parking space in these neighborhoods is a challenge." In this fiscal year, the meters are estimated to collect an extra \$1 million while in the next fiscal year, beginning July 1, it is anticipated the Sunday meters will raise an additional \$3.5 million.

Candace Damon, president of the LDC, said, "It remains to be seen if this is actually going to happen but if it does it's an extraordinary opportunity for the avenue."

"I'm not going to jump up and down and say, 'Hooray,' but I think if we don't need it, plainly then a big jail there is an impediment to having Atlantic Avenue developed with it," she said.

Yassky said he would consult with real estate developers on the potential reuse of the building before suggesting alternatives. However, with the city pouring \$100

Mayor Mike rattles Prospect zoo's cages

Director says park's animal kingdom can't just be moved

The Brooklyn Papers

Since Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced he will cut city funding to the Prospect Park Zoo, forcing its director to leave the budget, the director of the zoo, Dr. Don Moore, has heard the cries of public support.

He's also gotten a few offers — albeit inflexible ones — to take in his soon-to-be castoff species.

"Have we gotten calls? Sure," Moore said. "From a pet store that wants to display a growup female baboon."

There are a few problems with that possibility, Moore said, the most notable being that to host a baboon you need a license from the

See ZOO on page 6



Gilda's Club coming to Slope

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

Entering the four-story brick headquarters of Gilda's Club New York City, SoHo, with its hardwood floors, oak cabinets and cozy but mismatched furniture, is not unlike walking into any number of city living rooms. The space looks lived-in, down to the coffee stains on the carpets.

Because the aesthetic goal of Gilda's Club, which provides support services to people with

cancer and their families, is to be as homey as possible, Park Slope is an easy fit for the organization, and the club is set to pair with the neighborhood.

In June, as Gilda's Club New York City celebrates its eighth anniversary, they will open a new Brooklyn Clubhouse. It will be the first satellite center of Gilda's Clubs across the country.

On April 14, Harvey Minkler, a retired financial worker and program director of Gilda's Club New York City, came to introduce the plans to an enthusiastic audience at a joint meeting of the

Housing and Human Services committees of Community Board 6.

"I'm glad it's coming," said Thomas Miskel, chairman of CB6's Human Services Committee. "I can't believe we didn't have something like this before."

The organization will set up their Brooklyn Clubhouse within the top two floors of a four-story brownstone at 502 Eighth Ave., between Fifth and Sixth streets. The space is being leased to Gilda's Club by New York Methodist Hospital

See GILDA on page 2

A few coins in the fountain

Borough President Marty Markowitz (far left) and Martin Maher and Charlotte Gili from Parks Department (at right) toss good-luck coins with children from the Brownsville Recreation Center April 16 to celebrate re-starting the fountain in Borough Hall plaza. Fountain was turned off all last season because of drought.

Another close call for a Sunset Park firehouse

By Alexa Christodoulides
The Brooklyn Papers

Engine 278 in Sunset Park is not typical.

For one thing, they don't have a Dalmatian. They have a tabby cat named Tizzo (named after an allergic firefighter) who sleeps on the purple leather couch in the back room. Before Tizzo arrived, there was a pot-bellied pig named Dwayne who was a bit more about it.

The self-appointed guardian of the firehouse is Lynne, a 40-something woman who lives nearby (firefighters say she keeps track of who's on duty by watching the cars parked out front) who jealousy shooes away curious women, telling them, "Leave them alone, they're busy, they don't want you."

But what really sets Engine 278 apart from

other firehouses is the fact that it has already risen from the dead once and hopes to do so again.

"After three days until closing," read a caution notice posted on the whiteboard inside the firehouse two weeks ago.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg initially announced in November that he might close the firehouse and seven others in Brooklyn, Queens and Manhattan as fiscal belt tightening in the face of a recession-level budget deficit. On April 17, the administration made it official. They have the firehouses 45 days.

But Engine 278 has been through this before, albeit nearly 30 years ago.

The firehouse was closed from July 2 through July 16, 1975, the last time the city faced such ominous economic straits, when the current Engine 278 firefighters were kids.

That closure, too, was supposed to be permanent. The big fire engine was shifted to another firehouse, the firefighters who worked there in '75 were all dispersed, or "re-deployed," in the quippy language of firefighting jargon.

"They didn't tell anyone they'd done it that way, and people would look in and see someone, and feel safe. But the firehouse was closed," said Richard Veltland, a 13-year veteran of Engine 278.

None of the 25 Engine 278 firefighters will be laid off this time, either. They will be re-deployed to other firehouses, though only one firefighter this week knew where he was being assigned. Since there are to be no layoffs, the city will save \$10.2 million in operating costs, but nothing on payroll.

Engine 278's union delegate, Firefighter

Mike Triglianis, sounded fairly upbeat when he said, "We're not resigned to the fact that we're closing. We're no better than we were last week. The guys here will probably go to work on Monday morning." He's been living in Sunset Park. "A couple of guys who live on Staten Island will probably go to Staten Island houses," he added.

Although it's one of five firehouses (Engine Companies 201, 228, 241 and Ladder 114 are the others) in the neighborhood, this firehouse is located in Sunset Park, Brooklyn's less populated Chinatown along Eighth Avenue, and a large chunk of Borough Park abutting Maimonides Medical Center. Engine 278 also responds to medical emergencies.

Retired Fire Chief Ed Henry came by the other day for lunch and moral support. "If See ENGINE 278 on page 5



Firefighters from Engine Company 278 with their truck.

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This Old DUMBO House

Home guru Bob Vila rehabs an old Water St. factory for Walentas

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

There are no half-naked babes, no beer-guzzling boozos or even a private couch where participants can reveal their secret fantasies to a camera man and 3 million viewers.

Despite all that, Bob Vila's home improvement show has persisted as perhaps the longest-running reality show in television history.

And now the home improve-

ment guru, who made his name fixing up Victorian-style homes and Cape Cod cottages, has come to the gritty (OK, at least cobblestoned) streets of DUMBO to take on the remodeling of a 19th-century pepper factory.

This project marks Vila's first foray into New York City.

After spending a long time looking for a property to purchase and restore, Vila quickly learned that buying real estate in New York City wasn't as easy as his more usual

tasks of installing septic tanks, ripping out floorboard and connecting wireless electrical systems. An apartment was out of the question (just imagine the complaints from the co-op board). And the price of brownstones, even for a celebrity like Vila, was, well, just too darn expensive.

Despite all that, Bob Vila's home improvement show has persisted as perhaps the longest-running reality show in television history.

brought on as a producer for the DUMBO series. Walentas also toured this project over to his son, Jed, 28, a carpenter.

Equipped with a strap-on cell phone, Chris led a tour through the dilapidated building, which looked as if it had been looted, burned and left to rot for centuries with a few teeth, jeans and leather belts as a reminder of its former factory use.

But in less than six months, according to Chris, the building will be like new.

Upstairs, on the third floor, Vila stood in a button-down shirt, as a demolition crew for Walentas' Two Trees Management broke a sweat tearing up the floors and leaving gaping holes.

In future segments, Vila will look on as the crew installs a new floor and runs up the walls, which are now exposed brick. Three separate interior designers



Home repair icon Bob Vila (above right) speaks with demolition crew foreman Keith Elmore about the progress of 85 Water Street (at left).

The Brooklyn Papers photo by Tom Mori

are being brought in to design each of the three two-bedroom apartments, Beyer Blinder Belle, set-based architects responsible for the restoration of Grand Central Terminal, will come into restore the exterior of the landmark-designated building.

While the first segment will serve as an introduction for viewers to the new surroundings of

the viewers, have no idea what DUMBO is," Vila said. Later shows will take them around to other spots in Brooklyn.

The show airs Sundays at 5 am on channel 2. The DUMBO series will air for four full seasons.

"It's a good deal for us," Vila said. "I think he's got a great show."

wares, including the newly renovated Sweeney Manufacturing building condos and a historic carousel, which he wants to install in Empire-Fulton Ferry Park.

Once the restoration is complete, the apartment market will extend to the sold-out units held onto by the Walentas family to be let out to friends, guests and esteemed VIPs.

Does Jed want to get his hands on one? No, he says, he's happy on the Lower East Side. And Chris? He's happily ensconced on the Upper West Side.

Farmer's mart for Ft. Greene

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Spas and bars have been popping up like spring flowers in Fort Greene, but the newest addition might bring the biggest smiles to residents who live in a neighborhood that boasts a bounty of restaurants but a dearth of shops selling fresh vegetables.

Following in the footsteps of neighboring areas like Brooklyn Heights and Greenpoint, Fort Greene Park will soon be home to a farmer's market. Jeannie Lutty, president of the BAM Local Development Corporation announced at this month's Community Board 2 public meeting.

Every Saturday morning, starting in July, about eight farmers, hailing from Long Island and Upstate New York, will line up along the eastern edge of Fort Greene Park to hawk their fresh greens, flowers and cheeses.

Plans for a market have long been in the works, according to Howard Pitsch, a 20-year resident, who is chairman of the Fort Greene Association.

With the neighborhood houses a Palermo and a clutch of bodegas, "you don't go there for fresh vegetables," said Pitsch who hopes the market will cater to residents of the nearby housing projects as well as the neighborhood's more affluent set who have been snapping up the area's well-preserved million-dollar brownstones.

"I had no idea there was going to

be a farmer's market," said Amy Lundein, a Fort Greene resident and editor for a national food magazine in Manhattan. After spending years lugging her groceries home from Walen's, Lundein said she is looking forward to having affordable fruit and vegetables in her neighborhood.

The need for farmer's markets is especially acute in Fort Greene and its surrounding neighborhoods. While areas like Brooklyn Heights boast one grocery store per 7,000 residents, nearby Bedford-Stuyvesant has only one per 63,000.

To meet that need, Clinton Hill Community Supported Agriculture, which also runs a CSA in Bedford-Stuyvesant, supplies a weekly stock of fruits and vegetables on a sliding scale from a farm update that members can pick up every Thursday evening at the corner of Gates Avenue and Downing Street, located just west of the park.

"This market is something we've been striving towards," said Jennifer Gerend, executive director of the Myrtle Avenue Revitalization Project, a group that worked to bring a health food store and juice bar to the area at Myrtle and Clinton avenues.

Because it will be equally accessible to residents on the Myrtle Avenue side and the DeKalb Avenue side of Fort Greene Park, Seble Tareke, director of economic development at Pratt Arts Community Center, hopes the farmer's market will bring people together and help foster a sense of community.

CB2: Give us Navy Yard voice

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

Community Board 2 wants its voice back on the Brooklyn Navy Yard's board of directors, that is.

Among issues raised by CB2 member Edward Carter, longtime member of the Navy Yard board, at CB2's April 9 general meeting, was the community board's lack of a vote on the Navy Yard Development Corporation's board of directors.

Despite its membership on the Navy Yard board, Carter believes CB2 should have a separate voting board member specifically to represent the interests of the community board. He said it was too difficult to represent both the interests of the Navy Yard board and the community board at the same time.

While CB2 Chairwoman Shirley McRae has been a regular presence at Navy Yard board meetings, she added, "While CB2 is given notification of the board of directors meeting, we do not have a voting presence on that board."

"If I don't take copious notes we don't get the information and that's not the way it's supposed to happen," McRae added.

In the past, CB2 had an appointed member on the board, former CB2 Chairman Bob Evans. But he served at the discretion of the City Councilman he represented, Paul A. Deutch, President Marty Markowitz, Councilman David Yassky, James Vann, and Al Vann, all hold appointments to the board, although none have placed a community board member in that role.

The board is chaired by Alan Fishman, CEO of independent Coney Island, and is made up of 16 local leaders appointed by Mayor Michael Bloomberg and local elected officials.

Carter was disturbed by a recent restructuring of the development corporation, which, he said, did not place a board of director's approval.

The Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation recently undertook a reorganization of its staff, that included placing some members to vice-president while laying off lower level employees. They called it fiscal belt-

tightening.

Carter expressed his "annoyance" that the restructuring was not cleared with the Navy Yard's board of directors.

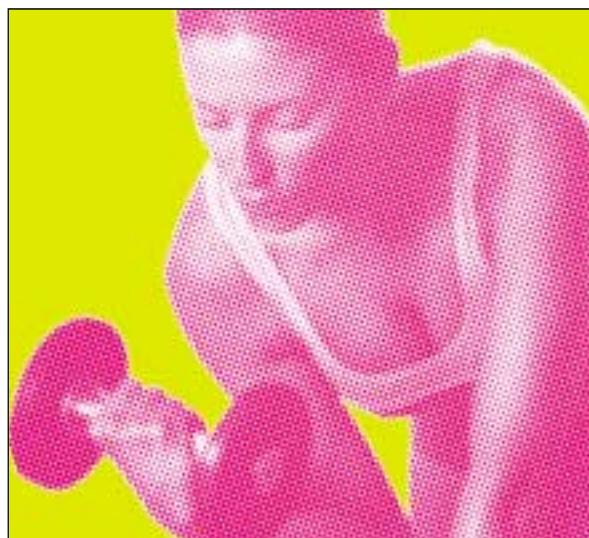
"I have no problem with that, but he should have thought it out before he did it," Carter said of Brooklyn Navy Yard board member Deutch.

"Staff responsibilities are for management to handle and the board has control through its approval of the budget," Deutch said. "To the extent these changes had any effect on the budget they were addressed and approved."

There was a total reduction in personnel from 160 to 140, including part-time staff members, Deutch said. Of the 18 positions lost, 10 were closed through attrition and eight through layoffs.

"Knowing that we had to do more with less here we went through a company-wide reorganization in which we attempted to create operating efficiencies," Deutch said.

Of the currently remaining employees, 88 are unionized security and maintenance employees and 54 are administrative staff.



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BWN 5

FIRE SALE

What will city do with its newly closed firehouses?

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

During the city's last major fiscal crisis, in the mid-1970s, Engine Company 278 in Sunset Park was shuttered for several weeks and Engine 204 in Carroll Gardens was closed for good, eventually converted to a townhouse.

Now, with Engine Company 204, on Degraw Street, between Court and Smith streets, and Engine 278, on Seventh Avenue between 50th and 51st Streets, set to close, the city may have to maintain its own buildings.

As announced in his executive budget proposal on April 15, Mayor Bloomberg is threatening to close another 40 firehouses around the city.

However, before the property is sold — or given to the city's Economic Development Corporation — the Department of Housing Preservation and Development to lease it — must go through the city's Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP), requiring the application of the city's planning board, the borough president, the Department of City Planning and the City Council.

Given the many community protests and the voiced opposition by elected officials and Comptroller Bill Thompson, that appraisal would seem unlikely.

Local officials and community groups will hold a demonstration on Sunday, April 27, at 1 p.m., on the steps of Borough Hall, at Court and Remsen streets, to protest closings.

John Barowitz, a spokesman for the mayor, said it would be the Fire Department that would decide if it had any use for the property. A Fire Department spokesman said there were no plans yet for the buildings, but that they would be maintained by the department in the meantime.

The firehouses could close as early as May 23, a Fire Department spokesman said.

If the city Department decided it had no other use for the firehouses, they would be declared surplus and turned over to the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS).

While Warner Johnston, a

spokesman for DCAS, said it is up to the city to determine what to do with the buildings when it is turned over for auction, until such action, the Fire Department would have to maintain its own buildings.

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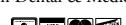
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Easter weekend

The Communion and Liberation choir (below) sings on the Brooklyn Bridge during the Way of the Cross procession from Brooklyn to Manhattan on Good Friday. (Above and right) Youngsters race for the eggs at an Easter egg hunt in Red Hook's Coffey Park.



ZOO...

Continued from page 1

U.S. Department of Agriculture. There are other immediate concerns, however, regarding the trauma of travel and the social habits of certain animals.

"We appreciate that kind of gesture for support," Moore added. "But it's not something we can actually act on."

The zoo, which has major facilities in Bloomberg's contingency plan to shutter the zoo if Albany doesn't pony up more funds for the city. Decreasing the stress of travel and integrating animals into new social groups is an ex-

tremely difficult undertaking that takes a great deal of time, Moore said.

"You don't just shut a zooland hope to move all the animals overnight," he said. "It can't happen months and even years."

There is an elderly bald eagle who could cause some concern, Moore said, and in the future, if the city can't find a home for him, the zoo's original situation in which two different social groups, each with a dominant male, share the same environment. The exhibit has enough space for each group to set up their own

separate living quarters with space to forage.

Moore suggests that if the seven and a half baboons—one of the females is pregnant—were forced to move, ideally each social group should be maintained. But finding a home for them before primates is a lion's task.

While the zoo is home to nearly 400 animals including everything from Peruvian guinea pigs to Cotton-Topped Tamarins, some animals, such as the polar bears, require weeks of training just to get into a crate to be shipped. Once an animal arrives at a new home, it may require more time and training to adjust to the new settings and

harmonize with the other animals without becoming too stressed out.

Symptoms of stress can include self-imposed starvation, hyperactivity, lethargy and generally erratic behavior.

Added to that, animals are not shipped during the winter months because of the extreme temperatures. The danger barometric extremes pose on the caged animals as they wait on the tarmac for a flight.

The mayor's office did not return calls for comment on the complexities of shutting down the zoo, as well as the mayor's suggested last week, moving all the animals.

Park Slope Councilman Bill DeBlasio, who is lobbying to keep the zoo open, took part in the meeting.

"While fury and cute, people should know that it's not just about the bears," DeBlasio said. "The Prospect Park Zoo provides valuable and substantial educational services to children through the public schools and not-for-profit organizations like the Prospect Park Zoo."

In the latest round of budget cuts, presented on April 15, Bloomberg proposed locking the gates of the Prospect Park and Queens zoos, which would save the city approximately \$8 million, less than 1 percent of the city's \$1 billion budget.

"The 12-year-old Prospect Park Zoo attracts nearly 250,000 visitors each year.

"This is not a budgetary exercise—this is the lives of 211 people, the displacement of thousands of animals, and the dismantling of one of the largest and most distinguished network of urban wildlife parks," Dr. Steven Sanderson said last week. Sanderson is president and chief executive officer of the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), the parent organization to the city's four zoos and sole remaining.

The WCS has mounted a petition drive and they are asking New Yorkers to visit the city's zoos in a show of support.

Bloomberg's cuts also target the Brooklyn Zoo, the largest, and the Central Park Zoo, as well as the New York Aquarium in Coney Island. Those venues would see cuts of 35 percent or more. More than 200 WCS staffers would be laid off and more than 800 would be relocated.

"While there will be many more conversations regarding the refinement, passage and implementation of the budget, I believe the growth work has been laid for area leaders to work together to ensure the area's growth and prosperity for years to come," Whelan said.

A replacement for Whelan has not yet been named.

ADVERTISER FOCUS

Los Paisanos Meats

Owner Tony Affronti cuts bone-in rib steaks at Los Paisanos Meat Market at 162 Smith St.

The Brooklyn Papers / Tom Callan

Los Paisanos Meats has been serving customers in Boerum Hill for more than 40 years, and like the neighborhood, it's growing, changing and at the same time, maintaining all that warmth and friendliness that makes it so popular among Brooklynites. It arrives at your table tender and succulent. The variety of meat and poultry the store carries is truly overwhelming. In fact, many quality restaurants rely on Los Paisanos Meats for their supply of fresh meat.

At Los Paisanos, you'll find tender Gold Ans gas beef (dry-aged porterhouse and shell steaks, among other cuts), leg of lamb, free-range chicken, sheep chops, duck, ham, and venison burgers, rabbit, goose and duck, as well as the highest grade of pork—from chops to shoulders, to roasts and even whole pigs for spit-roasting.

And you'll also find sausages prepared with wine, rosemary and garlic; merguez sausage; and organic meat and poultry.

Los Paisanos has an impressive grocery section that carries many ethnic foods—couscous; imported olive oil, cheeses and pasta sauces; and Spanish chorizo sausage.

"We want to make people happy," says Michael Affronti, who took over the store after his father, Tony Affronti, retired. (Tony still helps out, enjoying the business more than ever.) Another part of making people happy is taking holiday orders and special orders year-round.

"We give our customers the red-carpet treatment," says Tony. "When people come in, they see the difference."

Los Paisanos Meats, at 162 Smith Street between Wyckoff and Bergen streets, accepts American Express, Visa, Discover, MasterCard and food stamps, and is open Monday through Saturday 8 am to 7 pm. For more information, call (718) 855-2641.

—Paulanne Simmons

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A replacement for Whelan has not yet been named.

Feds say Bay Ridge man was an Iraqi spy

By Deborah Kolben

The Brooklyn Papers

There may have been a spy among us.

A Bay Ridge resident was arrested last week on charges that he spied for the Iraqi government.

The son of an Iraqi diplomat appointed by Saddam Hussein as a liaison to United Nations weapons inspectors, Reid Al-Anbuke has been living on the 200 block of Senator Street for the past three years along with his sister and two brothers.

But while he was here, looking for their gift of gab and eat-to-the-ground awareness, nobody seemed to know anything about Al-Anbuke or his arrest this week.

Local community activists, shwarma sellers, mosque members, right on up to the local police precinct, all said they were shocked to learn from The Bay Ridge Paper that a spy had been living among them.

"It is shocking and scary to learn that living amongst us in the Bay Ridge community was an agent of the Iraqi Intelligence Service," said state Sen. Marty Golden.

"But the law enforcement personnel has again proven to be on top of their game and has made an arrest. It is proof that you may be able to hide, but eventually you will be caught," Golden added.

Dale Dickey, 32, of the 200 block of Carrollton, commanding officer of the 68th Precinct, said he knew little of the arrest but that Al-Anbuke's activities had not affected the public safety of the community.

Calls to several Senator Street residents found they had no idea an alleged spy was living among them.

Al-Anbuke, 28, was charged by federal prosecutors with aiding the Iraqi Intelligence Service, an agency the FBI holds

responsible for the assassination attempt on former President George Bush. He was arraigned April 15 in Manhattan federal court and pleaded guilty.

If convicted Al-Anbuke could face up to 10 years in prison.

His lawyer, Thomas Nooter, said he was thunderstruck over the charges against his client and claimed that Al-Anbuke had been providing the FBI with information on intelligence officers operating out of the United Nations mission over the past two years.

Among the charges against Al-Anbuke is that he purchased a tape recorder at the Wiz for an Iraqi spy. According to Nooter, that tape recorder was supposed to be used by Al-Anbuke to record conversations.

"He couldn't buy it himself because he didn't speak English," Nooter said. The tape recorder was later given back to Al-Anbuke, he said, to be returned to the electronics store.

Al-Anbuke moved from Manhattan to a two-bedroom apartment on Senator Street near the intersection of Carrollton and his father was still working in the United States two years ago.

His diplomatic visa became invalid when his father returned to Iraq. Al-Anbuke's siblings are now in the custody of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Instead of returning to Iraq with his father, Al-Anbuke stayed on in New York where he was studying graphic design. He worked at World Class Cleaners in the West Village. A coworker who answered the telephone at World Class Cleaners this week said he was very surprised about the arrest.

In Bay Ridge, Zein Rimawi, vice president of the Islamic Society of Bay Ridge, questioned the validity of the charges against Al-Anbuke, who he does not know.



Sketch of Reid Al-Anbuke in federal court on April 15.

"Spying on what?" asked Rimawi. "We don't have Iraqi [spies] here in Bay Ridge. I don't believe this Bush administration. If they say the sun sets in the West I check it 10 times before I believe it." Rimawi added that these days Arabs in America are coming in and problem solving.

But FBI agents say they have a videotape of Al-Anbuke in Atlantic City in January 2001 with other known Iraqi spies. They also claim that he let a spy make a telephone call from his cell phone. And it is shown on video at a 2001 party celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Iraqi Mission to the United Nations, which was attended by other known spies.

Al-Anbuke is also charged with not registering with the U.S. Attorney General's office as all "agents" working for foreign governments are required to do. He is being held without bail and prosecutors expect an indictment to be handed down in Manhattan within the next three weeks, according to Nooter.

Parade nets mermaid 10G

Associated Press

A woman arrested after she wore only a thong and body paint to the 2001 Coney Island Mermaid Parade will receive \$10,000 after the city settled a federal lawsuit in which she alleged she was wrongfully detained.

The deal between Amy Gunderson, 31, and the city was announced Tuesday by her lawyer, Ronald L. Kuby.

Deborah Meyer is a city lawyer, and the city admitted to liability in the case, in exchange for a deal.

"This city evaluates cases and makes business decisions every day. We felt it was in our best interest to settle the case," she said.

In her lawsuit, Gunderson said her First Amendment rights were violated when she was arrested June 29, 2001, at the parade in Coney Island. The charges were eventually dismissed.

Rimawi said she was wrongfully arrested because her float and costume fell within the definition of entertainment.

He also said she was wrongfully arrested because New York's highest court has held that female toplessness cannot, as a matter of equal protection, be deemed criminal when male toplessness is legal.

D'town biz whiz crosses the river

The Brooklyn Papers

After successfully selling the Prospect Park Zoo, a comprehensive development plan for Downtown Brooklyn, Jim Whelan, president of the Downtown Brooklyn Council, stepped down April 16 to become a leading voice for the Bloomberg administration's vision for the West Side of Manhattan.

This is not a budgetary exercise—this is the lives of 211 people, the displacement of thousands of animals, and the dismantling of one of the largest and most distinguished network of urban wildlife parks," Dr. Steven Sanderson said last week. Sanderson is president and chief executive officer of the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), the parent organization to the city's four zoos and sole remaining.

The WCS has mounted a petition drive and they are asking New Yorkers to visit the city's zoos in a show of support.

Blowhard's cuts also target the Brooklyn Zoo, the largest, and the Central Park Zoo, as well as the New York Aquarium in Coney Island. Those venues would see cuts of 35 percent or more. More than 200 WCS staffers would be laid off and more than 800 would be relocated.

"While there will be many more conversations regarding the refinement, passage and implementation of the budget, I believe the growth work has been laid for area leaders to work together to ensure the area's growth and prosperity for years to come," Whelan said.

A replacement for Whelan has not yet been named.



Times Plaza progress

The historic subway kiosk (above) at the intersection of Flatbush, Atlantic and Fourth avenues, Downtown, was returned to its home in Times Plaza last week, as work advanced on the Atlantic Terminal office shopping complex above the Long Island Railroad hub across the street.



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Knife mugger targets Slope women

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

A knife-wielding mugger and his accomplice terrorized Park Slope and Boerum Hill neighborhoods over the past week, striking at least five times.

Police believe the same brazen robber committed all five attacks, assisted by a getaway driver. Most of the robberies have taken place during the day and all targeted women. In one case, the mugger threatened the life of a woman's young child.

The robbery spree began on April 10, when a 33-year-old woman left a store on Court Street, at around 3 p.m., and then turned towards Clinton Street on Washington Avenue in Brooklyn.

She was grabbed from behind and a knife was put to her throat. The victim fought back, kicking and elbowing the thief before he threw her to the ground, yanked her shirt over her head and fled into what appeared to be a silver, late-model Lincoln sedan.

The victim lost \$50, a Palm Pilot, credit cards, a cell phone and keys.

Last Friday same day, a woman, 35, was grabbed on Sterling Place, between Sixth and Seventh avenues in Park Slope at around 3:45 p.m. The victim was grabbed from behind and the robber took a knife to her throat, demanding "Give me your money."

The robber took \$70 and fled in what was described as a silver Buick driven by another man.

The robbery spree escalated on April 18 and April 19, when at least four more people were robbed in Park Slope by a man bearing a similar description.

On April 18, at 2 p.m., a woman, 25, was walking from her car on Third Street, between Fifth and Sixth avenues, when a man approached and said, "Don't move, I'll cut you. I'll kill you."

The victim said she had no

money, but the robber persisted in his threat before she opened her bag to show him her wallet was empty. A neighbor came out of her house and began to scream causing the perpetrator to flee into a waiting vehicle. The car backed down Third Street, near Fifth Avenue and took off going north.

The next day, shortly before 10 a.m., a woman and her 2-year-old son were held up at knifepoint near the 13th Street between Eighth Avenue and Prospect Park West.

The victim, 36, said a man on the street blocked her path and pulled a single-edged razorblade and threatened, "Give me all you money or I'll cut your kid." When the woman refused, the child, she handed over her wallet.

The robber removed \$35 from the billfold, then threw the rest of the contents into the street before he jumped into a waiting vehicle at Eighth Avenue and 13th Street.

As the cat took off, the victim told police, it nearly struck a number of other vehicles on Eighth Avenue.

Around 2:30 p.m., the thief was back at what is Prospect Street, between Seventh and Eighth avenues, sticking up a 28-year-old woman. This time the robber returned to his earlier tactic of grabbing the victim from behind.

"Don't scream," he said, as he held a knife to the victim's throat. "Give me the money."

The victim began to scream, and the robber tried to pull her under a nearby staircase. She continued to scream but the thief wrenched open her handbag and fled into a gray Dodge Caliber or Buick Riviera, with a white vinyl top. He made off with the woman's \$40, her cell phone, identification and credit cards.

The robber was described as a black male, approximately 30 years old, 180 pounds, and wearing a 5-foot-11 and 6-foot-2. There was no description of his getaway driver.



Till it's over, over there

Officers of the 76th Precinct and members of the precinct council gather outside precinct on Union Street April 17 to unveil banner honoring their fellow 76th Precinct officers serving in Iraq: Army reservists Angela Green, Judd Howie and Theodore Sarica, and Coast Guard reservist Sgt. Robert Stapleton. Banner bears their police shields.

Thief hits Slope woman during prayer

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

A theifin' heathen steals a parishioner's purse from off a church pew on Ninth Street between Fourth and Fifth avenues, while the victim was in mid-prayer.

According to police, at around 12:20 p.m. on April 20, the victim, 31, while kneeling in the church, reached for a handheld organ on the bench behind her. Moments later, the bag was gone, containing \$350, credit cards, a cell phone, keys and miscellaneous gift cards.

Hicks push-in

A woman was attacked coming into her home on Hicks Street in Brooklyn.

Police said the victim, 94, was entering her apartment, between Love Lane and Pier-report Street, when a man followed her through the front door. The man pushed her into a doorway and pulled out a knife, cutting her hair in the process. When she began to scream the robber grabbed her purse and fled.

Three credit cards were reported stolen.

Tied up, robbed

A victim was tied up and robbed on Bridge Street, between York and Prospect streets, and tied up the residents before looting the home, police said.

At around 2:15 a.m. on April 18, the suspect broke into the home of a 36-year-old woman, 50, and a 9-year-old boy, slept. The suspects then rousted the two residents and tied them up with duct tape. While one of the intruders searched the apartment, police said, another one shouted at the victims, "Shut up or I'll blow your head off."

Police Blotters

The then burglars fled with \$480.

Police said one of the victims knew one of the robbers, and they rounded up five suspects.

Skylight entry

A burglar crashed through a bathroom skylight on April 17, according to police. The man and 7 p.m., and stole cash, DVDs, a DVD player, and a CD, worth \$1,900. One thing the burglar did leave was a giant mess from breaking in through the skylight.

Dirt Harry?

A man's .357 Smith and Wesson revolver was stolen from a Vinegar Hill storage facility on April 15.

According to police, the 39-year-old pistol packer, from Staten Island, was licensed to own a firearm, and he stored the gun at the facility on April 15, and when the break-in was discovered, 9 a.m. the following day, a prowler scanned through a kitchen window and managed to elude the alarm to steal the PC. A 45-year-old employee arrived at work to find the computer missing.

Bridge Street between Front and Water streets at around 1 p.m. Returning to the storage room at 9 p.m., however, he had discovered the gun was gone along with a DVD player and had valued the items at \$2,300.

The burglar apparently entered the facility by smashing through an upper-level wall, police said.

Intel outside

A burglar sacked a restaurant on Court Street at the corner of State Street, taking a computer as well as its monitor and keyboard.

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Gardens gang

A Carroll Gardens man was on his way to a friend's house at 9:15 p.m. April 19 when he was set upon by a gang of five.

The victim, 28, was walking past the Wyckoff Street Playground, between Wyckoff Street and Hoyt Street, between Lincoln Place and Berkeley Place on April 12.

The burglar apparently entered the facility by smashing through an upper-level wall, police said.

Intel outside

A burglar sacked a restaurant on Court Street at the corner of State Street, taking a computer as well as its monitor and keyboard.

Lot sacked

Two men stole a pair of cars after tying up and beating the parking lot attendant at a garage on the corner of Washington and Prospect streets.

BMX bandits

A 13-year-old boy was robbed of his bicycle by a mob of two-way-wheel-thieves on Prospect Park West at Ninth Street on April 18.

At about 6 p.m., the boy was surrounded by over a dozen teenagers, one of who pulled a knife and demanded his bicycle. The gang rode off with the bike.

Bottle bashed

A man tried to mediate a dispute on Fifth Avenue, between Dean and Bergen streets, shortly before 11 p.m. on April 13, when he was stabbed with a broken bottle in his back and foreground, police said.

The victim was taken to Lutheran Medical Center and then rushed back in and began

a suspect was arrested.

Eatery robbery

A man who was snatched from the back of her chair as she dined in a restaurant on Seventh Avenue, between Lincoln Place and Berkeley Place on April 12.

While the victim, 27, ate, she placed her pocketbook on the back of her chair and then got up around 9:15 p.m., the bag vanished. The purse contained \$20, credit cards and identification.

Lot sacked

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Hero cop saves family

The Brooklyn Papers

"I was just traveling, coming into work," Sorrenti told The Brooklyn Papers this week. "I looked to my left and saw black smoke coming from the top of the building."

He stopped his car and called the Fire Department, then rushed into the burning building to see if anyone was trapped inside.

Sorrenti rescued the woman and her two children from their first-floor apartment, and then rushed back in and began

banging on doors on the second and third floors, where the fire had started.

No one was on those floors, and Sorrenti managed to estimate the flames were at the top of the building. After firefighters arrived to put out the blaze, Sorrenti was taken to Beth Israel Medical Center and treated for smoke inhalation.

A Fire Department spokesman said no cause for the fire had not yet been determined.

—Patrick Gallahue



Passover at Mount Sinai

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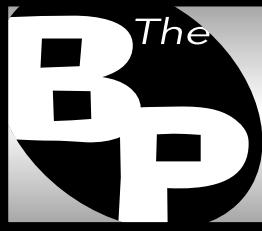
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INSIDE

DANCE

Photo exhibit casts eye on young Latinos

DINING

Thomas Biesl brings Vienna to Brooklyn

BROOKLYN EVENTS CALENDAR: GO 2 BROOKLYN HOME: GO 4

DANCE

Grave dancers



Danzas Espanolas will welcome spring with a festive program of authentic Spanish dances performed at Green-Wood Cemetery's renovated neo-Gothic chapel (500 25th St. at Fifth Avenue), on April 27 at 5 pm.

The 20-piece company will perform Andalusian songs, rich Sephardic and Moorish works and early 19th-century theater dances.

Tickets are \$20. A portion of the proceeds will support Green-Wood's Salute in Time program, which conserves and restores enhanced monuments in the cemetery. For tickets, call (718) 857-4816 or visit www.gowans.com. For directions, call (718) 788-7850 or visit www.green-wood.com.

CINEMA

World vision

Brooklyn International Film Fest returns with a selection of films from around the globe

By Michael Wells
for The Brooklyn Papers

"Brooklyn is not Sundance," says Marco Ursino, as if to reassure himself. "It's the impressive growth of the Brooklyn International Film Festival, executive director Ursino doesn't see it becoming a market juggernaut or dominating its setting like the Sundance Film Festival, which takes over tiny Park City, Utah, each year."

"We're talking about Brooklyn here! Everything has already happened. It's a land of artists and big people," Ursino adds. "GO Brooklyn!"

Still, the festival, running April 28 through May 4 at the Brooklyn Museum of Art, has gotten pretty big. It began in 1998 as the Williamsburg Brooklyn Film Festival, a designation it outgrew last year.

This year's edition, which opens April 28 with a screening of the Merchant and Ivory Film "Merry-Go-Round," is a zany under-the-street exploring the life of the closeted, gay son of a narcissistic diva, starring Diane Wiest and Vanessa Redgrave. It boasts 96 films, five categories, features, documentaries, narrative shorts, and animated and experimental shorts. The schedule is so packed that the Rose Cinemas at the Brooklyn Academy of Music have been enlisted to catch some of the overflow.

The festival received from 1,578 submissions — a leap up from fewer than 1,000 last year.

"That is worrisome, a little bit," says Ursino, still sounding quite happy. "With more films, it means more people working, therefore a bigger investment, bigger commitment with sponsors, more marketing. Every year it's a little miracle."

"I guess we're doing something right, because [sponsors] work with us the first year and still with us. We have to stay for the long term. Just to ensure that, we always do a nice, thorough job as far as our relationships with other organizations, other entities and with people in general."

A prime example is Ursino's stint on April 3 with "Principal for a Day" program. As part of his brief tenure, he recruited Michael Sorkin, 14, to direct a short film to a couple of Brooklyn International Film Festival (BIFF) selections. The Canadian animated short "In the Back of the Bus" (2002) brought down the house with its colorful gallery of bizarre bus passengers grooving to a cappella and beat-box vocal music.

"These kids had a time of their lives," exults Ursino. "They were acting like crazy." The school's award-winning student shorts will perform before the 3 pm program on May 2, which includes "Back of the Bus," and MS 143 students will have a free day at the festival.

"It's gonna be a show where it's very vocal," observes Ursino, clearly relishing the thought.

This isn't the only way in which BIFF serves the local community. Ursino is particularly proud to list of 74 countries that submitted films.

"There are over 190 ethnic groups living in Brooklyn. We basically bring the best of their countries here. Brooklyn becomes a theater where everybody can be really proud of their own origins, ethnicity and arts."

That goes equally for folks who consider themselves Brooklynites first and foremost. A handful of selections are made by local filmmakers, including indie-made filmmakers based here. But Ursino says he and his colleagues didn't go too far out of their way to favor hometown product.

"Obviously, there is, on our side, a will to do that ...

See BIFF on page GO 4

Ball players

By Kevin Filipski
for The Brooklyn Papers

The biggest splash a ballet company can make in its debut appearance at the Brooklyn Academy of Music is by giving a fresh spin to one of the most popular stories in literature.

That's what choreographer Jean-Christophe Maillot and Les Ballets de Monte Carlo will do when they bring their version of Sergei Prokofiev's "Cinderella" to the Howard Gilman Opera House April 29-May 3.

Maillot comes from his busy rehearsal schedule to give an exclusive interview to GO Brooklyn, explaining his reinterpretation of Prokofiev's musical fairy tale.

"It's always interesting when you give a new take on a story-ballet that's very familiar. You're trying that with a new form or new way of telling the story," Maillot said. "The original idea was to keep it as a fairy tale, which we all need in these difficult times — but also give it a human dimension that audiences can see themselves in it."

That new human dimension stems from a simple idea: Cinderella's mother (who died before the story begins) returns as our heroine's fairy godmother.

"We start with

Cinderella's mother and father together, then we see her mother die, and the mother becomes the fairy godmother who follows her all her life," Maillot explained. "It may be that fairytale have more reality than we usually see, and maybe these kinds of fairy tales happen every day."

Prokofiev's score inspired Maillot to seek a new approach. "Prokofiev's score is more complex than the score for his ballet of 'Romeo & Juliet,' and I wanted to see if I could explore the story in a more complex way through this complex music."

Maillot's vision of Cinderella's mother as guardian angel was also inspired by a real-life tragedy.

"My father died seven years ago, and he was the person who made love what I'm doing today," Maillot said. "His death was a big blow to me, and I had a feeling of release and freedom, which sounds terrible. But I realized that he was a 'fairy godmother' for me, and still is!"

"I'm always thinking about him, but the difference is that now, I cannot ask him for help, so I have to invent the answer for myself."

Another Maillot innovation is to deny what audiences expect from classical ballet, like eye-catching sets and costumes.

"I want to take away big costumes and big sets from this kind of ballet, which have been done with the exception of the performers," he said. "I want to make a fusion between dance and lighting (by Dominique Drillet), since the aesthetic aspect is most important."

"I want to make the choreography disappear into the story," said Maillot. "I want influences to be more impulsive than the techniques used by the tradition. I'm preoccupied with the idea that the audience must become emotionally involved with the story. I don't like doing ballet for specialists but for the general public."

**Monte Carlo Ballet
brings an emotional
'Cinderella' to BAM**

DANCE

Les Ballets de Monte Carlo performs Prokofiev's "Cinderella" at BAM's Howard Gilman Opera House, 30 Lafayette Ave., at Ashland Place, on April 29 at 7 pm, and May 1 at 3 and 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$20, \$40 and \$60.

The April 29 performance is also the BAM Spring Gala, to be attended by Princess Caroline and Prince Ernst August of Hanover. Call (718) 636-4182 for gala information.

There will be a BAM Dialogue with choreographer Jean-Christophe Maillot on May 1 at 6 pm. For more information, visit www.bam.org on the Web.

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If the shoe fits: Les Ballets de Monte Carlo will present Prokofiev's "Cinderella" at BAM's Howard Gilman Opera House for four nights. Princess Caroline and Prince Ernst August will attend the April 29 Spring Gala performance.

Maillet believes passionately in his art's potential to move people. "It's a challenge to disturb people — not to shock, but to make audiences think in new ways, so they can perceive new things," he said. "Usually, the performance continually stops as the audience applauds the dancers, which to me is wrong. I want to force everyone to think more. I want to give them pleasure without trying to seduce them."

"Pleasure is not an enemy of creation, but boredom is. I'm trying to restore that balance — giving what people expect, but also more than what they expect. They will see Prokofiev's 'Cinderella,' but I want to give them something more. Sometimes a little evolution is better than a big revolution."

That "evolution" includes a technical innovation: instead of a glass slipper, Maillet spotlights his dancer's foot.

"What most differs is to give a dancer's shoe a spotlight and make it look good," he points out. "The true 'glass slipper' for a dancer is her bare foot; that's the most important part for a dancer. We use lighting and slight-of-hand for her glass slip-

per. Her whole foot shines when we put light on her bare foot."

Maillet and his troupe's BAM performances are part of a weekend celebration, "Monte Carlo Takes New York," featuring visits by Princess Caroline. The French-born choreographer is overwhelmed by their inclusion.

"I feel honored to have been asked to perform here," he says. "It shows that,

although there is glamour, there are also simple, passionate people who enjoy their work immensely. We hope that passion is apparent to the audience."



A scene from Ari Taub's "Letters from the Dead."

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